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Whitchurch Town Council

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WHITCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL – FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of Whitchurch Town Council held at 19:15 on the twenty first day of October 2021, held in the Edward German Room Whitchurch Civic Centre SY13 1AX

Present: Cllrs: P. Busby, A. Cooper, G. Ebbs, R. Hewson, A. Jackson, P. Lea, J. Martin, M. Phipps, M. Ridgway, J. Sinnott, G. Sullivan, and J. Thornton

In Attendance: Cllr. Gerald Dakin (Shropshire County Councillor), Luke Trevaskis (Proper Officer), Andy Cooper (Admin Support Officer), Press Officer, 16 Members of the Public

Minute WTC/84/2122

Apologies – received from Cllrs: A. Hall, R. Hall.

Minute WTC/85/2122

Declarations – None.

Minute WTC/86/2122

Minutes – minutes of the meetings held on 16 September 2021 and 30 September 2021 were approved.

Minute WTC/87/2122

Public Participation – The Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders.

A representative from Beechtree explained their financial position and how this has affected all of their provision, and 2 members of the public spoke on behalf of Beechtree youth work provision and positive outcomes.

A representative from Blackberry Fair asked if they are able to stay in the shed in the contractors yard. She also spoke about the recent paper sent to the Council outlining the future of Blackberry Fair, in particular the development of a new market and the request for the Town Council to meet with Blackberry Fair to discuss a way forward. A question was also raised regarding if the Council held a tourist/marketing fund.

The Council resolved to reinstate Standing Orders.

Minute WTC/88/2122

Membership of Committees – The Council resolved the following additions to the membership of committees.

Parks and Public Realm – Cllrs: M. Phipps and J. Thornton.

Finance – Cllr. J. Thornton.

Minute WTC/89/2122

Representatives on Outside Bodies – No updates or reports received.

Minute WTC/90/2122

Finance

- i) The Council resolved to accept and sign the accounts, monthly purchased ledger, BACS and manual cheque payments, credit card payments record and petty cash record.
- ii) The Council resolved to approve a £5,000 donation to Beechtree, out of the general reserves. Beechtree to return to the November meeting with a proposal for funding specifically for youth provision.

Minute WTC/91/2122

Planning – The Council resolved to approve planning application 21/04504/FUL.

Minute WTC/92/2122

Welcome Back Fund – The Council resolved that the Proper Officer work with local artists and historians to cost up the development of a wayfarer tourism map for Whitchurch and approach Shropshire County Council for funding. The Welcome Back Fund can also support Christmas Lights and this will also be explored.

Minute WTC/93/2122

Markets - The Council resolved to accept the proposal by Made in Shropshire to hold a market on the Bullring on 6 November and if successful future monthly markets starting in February 2022, subject to further review.

Minute WTC/94/2122

Police – The Council resolved to respond to the ‘Safer West Mercia Plan’ consultation stating WTC consider the plan to be an inadequate response for Whitchurch and that we expect more.

Minute WTC/95/2122

Resolution Recission – The Council resolved to rescind the following resolutions – WTC/218/2021, WTC/219/2021, WTC/220/2021, WTC/CC/34/2122, CCC/6/2122 and WTC/CC/20/2122.

Minute WTC/96/2122

Energy – The Council noted a verbal report by Cllr. Ebbs on how the Town Council can contribute to saving energy and preparing for a possible food/energy shortage – and the public message of being mindful of others/neighbours as there may be hard times ahead.

Minute WTC/97/2122

Armistice Day – The Council noted an Officer report on Remembrance Sunday on 14 November 2021, in particular the timetable of events and Whitchurch Town Council responsibilities.

Minute WTC/98/2122

Vote of Confidence – The Council resolved a vote of no confidence in Councillor Sinnott as Chair of Council/Town Mayor for Whitchurch. A recorded vote was requested.

For: Cllrs: P. Busby, A. Cooper, A. Jackson, P. Lea, M. Phipps, G. Sullivan, J. Thornton

Against: G. Ebbs, R. Hewson, J. Martin, M. Ridgway, J. Sinnott

Minute WTC/99/2122

Exclusion of Press and Public – The Committee resolved, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

Minute WTC/100/2122

HR – The Council resolved that the Locum Proper Officer/RFO should be retained, at least, until Staffing Matter 2021/22-01 had concluded.